

CA-040-305C BEAR CANYON RARE II CONTIGUOUS
(MAP 04-1.)

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This unit is bounded on the north by the Los Padres National Forest RARE II Unit 5-104, Bear Canyon, which is designated for further planning. Federal lands administered by the Hunter-Liggett Military Reservation are located to the south, State lands to the west, and private lands to the east of the unit.

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II. LAND OWNERSHIP

The 318 acre Wilderness Study Area is entirely BLM-administered public lands.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

The majority of the unit slopes upward in a northerly direction to higher elevations within Los Padres National Forest. An intermittent creek partially forms the western boundary of the unit. Pine and oak trees along with chamise are the major types of vegetation found within the unit. The unit's elevation varies from 1,800 to 3,000 feet above sea level.

IV. NATURAL CONDITION

The unit generally retains its natural character. There are firebreaks located in the unit, but they are substantially unnoticeable. Man is a visitor to the area but has not significantly changed the primeval character of the unit. Portions of the unit burned during the summer of 1978.

V. OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined types of recreation found within the unit are closely associated with the adjacent RARE II unit and the primitive character of the entire roadless area.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Of the comments received on the unit, two indicated the unit was too small for wilderness while others addressed mineral values or illustrated public support for designation of the unit as a Wilderness Study Area. The unit meets the size criteria for a Wilderness Study Area when considered in conjunction with the contiguous RARE II unit. Mineral values and general public support will be considered during the study phase of the wilderness review procedures.